DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 460 994 UD 032 915

AUTHOR	Ventura, Stephanie J.; Mathews, T. J.; Curtin, Sally C.
TITLE	Declines in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-97: National and State Patterns.
INSTITUTION	National Center for Health Statistics (DHHS/PHS), Hyattsville, MD.
REPORT NO	PHS-99-1120-9-0105
PUB DATE	1998-12-17
NOTE	21p.
AVAILABLE FROM	National Center for Health Statistics, 6525 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782-2003. Tel: 301-436-8500; e-mail: nchsquery@cdc.gov; Web site: www.cdc.gov/nchswww/.
PUB TYPE	Collected Works - Serials (022) -- Numerical/Quantitative Data (110)
JOURNAL CIT	National Vital Statistics Reports; v47 n12 Dec 1998
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Adolescents; *Birth Rate; Early Parenthood; Ethnic Groups; Racial Differences; Tables (Data); Trend Analysis; *Urban Youth

ABSTRACT

This report presents data on the numbers of teenage births and teenage birth rates for the United States for the period 1950-97 and state-specific birth rates for teenagers for 1991-96. After increasing sharply in the late 1980s, birth rates declined for American teenagers from 1991 through 1997. Rates fell overall by 16% for teenagers aged 15-17 years and by 11% for teenagers aged 18-19 years. Declines were reported for all race and ethnic origin groups, with the largest declines found for black teenagers, especially those aged 15-17 years. Particularly noteworthy has been the 21% decline in the rate of second birth for teenagers who have had one child. While teenage birth rates vary considerably by state, rates fell in all states in the 1990s, with nearly all declines statistically significant. Rates for black and non-Hispanic teenagers dropped in most states from 1991 to 1996, and the proportion of second and higher order births among all teenage births declined substantially in most states. (Contains 7 tables, 7 figures, and 23 references.) (Author/SLD)

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ED 460 994

National Vital Statistics Reports

From the CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
National Center for Health Statistics
National Vital Statistics System

Volume 47, Number 12

December 17, 1998

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Declines in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991–97: National and State Patterns

by Stephanie J. Ventura, M.A.; T. J. Mathews, M.S.; and Sally C. Curtin, M.A., Division of Vital Statistics

Abstract

This report presents data on the numbers of teenage births and teenage birth rates for the United States for the period 1950–97 and State-specific birth rates for teenagers for 1991–96. After increasing sharply in the late 1980's, birth rates declined for American teenagers from 1991 through 1997. Rates fell overall by 16 percent for teenagers 15–17 years and by 11 percent for teenagers 18–19 years. Declines were reported for all race and ethnic origin groups, with the largest declines found for black teenagers, especially those aged 15–17 years.

Particularly noteworthy has been the 21-percent decline in the rate of second births for teenagers who have had one child. Rates have fallen for first births as well, but the reductions are more modest, about 6 percent. Teenage mothers and their babies continue to be at greater risk of adverse health consequences compared with older mothers, including higher rates of preterm birth and low birthweight.

While teenage birth rates vary considerably by State, rates fell in all States in the 1990's with nearly all declines statistically significant. Rates for black and non-Hispanic white teenagers dropped in most States from 1991 to 1996. Birth rate trends for Hispanic teenagers by State were not consistent. The proportion of second and higher order births among all teenage births declined substantially in most States. Data are from the National Center for Health Statistics' (NCHS) National Vital Statistics System.

Keywords: teenage fertility • State-specific birth rates • fertility trends • teenage pregnancy

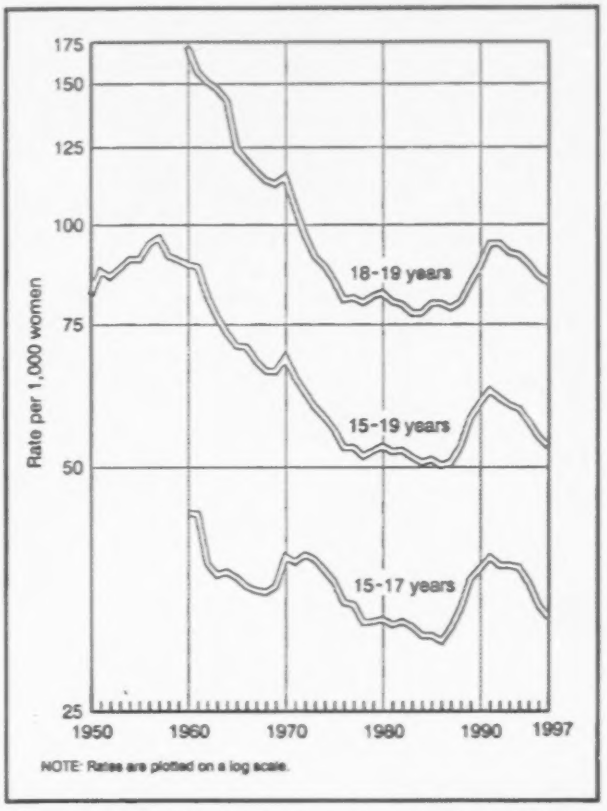

Figure 1. Birth rates for teenagers by age: United States, 1950–97

Acknowledgments

This report was prepared in the Division of Vital Statistics (DVS). The authors appreciate the helpful comments of Kenneth G. Keppel, Acting Branch Chief, Reproductive Statistics Branch, DVS. This report was edited by Demarius V. Miller, typeset by Jacqueline M. Davis, and graphics produced by Jamila Ogburn of the Publications Branch, Division of Data Services.

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Teenage birth rate down 15 percent since 1991; rates still higher than in early 1980's

The birth rate for U.S. teenagers in 1997 was 52.9 live births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years, 3 percent lower than in 1996, and 15 percent lower than in 1991 (table 1 and figure 1). The rate of 62.1 reported for 1991 was the highest level recorded in 20 years (64.5 in 1971). While the teenage birth rate has fallen steadily in the 1990's, the rate in 1997 remains higher than the rates in the mid-1980's, when they were at their lowest point ever (50 to 51 per 1,000).

The teenage birth rate declined fairly steadily from the late 1950's to the mid-1980's. Rates in the late 1950's were the highest ever recorded with the peak rate reported in 1957, at 96.3 births per 1,000. After reaching a low point in the mid-1980's, the teenage birth rate climbed steeply, with an overall increase of 24 percent between 1986 (50.2 per 1,000) and 1991 (62.1). The current downward trend represents a reversal of that increase.

While several measures are appropriate for examining patterns of teenage childbearing, the most useful measure is the birth rate, defined as the number of live births per 1,000 teenagers. This measure enables us to compare levels and trends in teenage childbearing among different population groups and over time for the same group, because all rates are computed on the basis of 1,000 women. For example, the birth rate for teenagers 15–17 years in 1997 was 32.6 births per 1,000 women aged 15–17 years. That rate was 38.7 in 1991. The *rate* for this age group has dropped 16 percent from 1991 to 1997 (table A). The number of births indicates how many teenagers gave birth in a given year. It is affected by the birth rate for a given age group (that is, the proportion of teenagers giving birth) and the number of females of that age. Looking again at teenagers 15–17 years, the number of births in 1997 was 183,324, compared with 188,226 in 1991, a modest reduction of about 3 percent. The number of births did not fall as much as the birth rate because the number of female teenagers in the population increased 16 percent from 1991 to 1997 (1).

Unmarried births are larger proportion of all teenage births as teenagers now less likely to marry

Teenagers have never married in large numbers; however, the proportion who are married now is at a record low. In 1970 about 10 percent of female teenagers were married; a quarter century later, this proportion fell to less than 5 percent (2,3). Since 1970 the birth rate for married teenagers declined more than 20 percent (from 443.7 per 1,000 married women aged 15–19 years in 1970 to 344.3 in 1996). At the same time the birth rate for unmarried teenagers doubled, with most of the increase coming in the 1980's. The rate rose from 22.4 per 1,000 in 1970 to 46.4 in 1994, and has since declined 8 percent (42.9 in 1996). Because of these changes in marriage patterns among teenagers and birth rates for unmarried and married teenagers, the proportion of teenage births occurring to unmarried women has risen steeply (figure 2). For example, among teenage mothers 15–17 years, the proportion unmarried more than doubled, from 43 percent in 1970 to 87 percent in 1997. Similarly, among teenage mothers 18–19 years, the proportion unmarried more than tripled from 22 percent in 1970 to 72 percent in 1997.

These major changes in marriage and marital and nonmarital birth rates are not unique to teenagers. In fact, relatively fewer women in all age groups are married nowadays, and birth rates have increased sharply for unmarried women in all age groups. As a consequence, while most births to teenagers are nonmarital, teenagers do not account for the majority of all births to unmarried women. As recently as 1975, more than half of all births to unmarried women were to teenagers; by 1997, the proportion under age 20 was only 31 percent.

Teenage birth and pregnancy rates fall

In order to examine trends in *pregnancies* among teenagers, data on live births must be combined with data on induced abortions and fetal losses. Because information on abortion and fetal loss is not as current as information on live births, this report focuses on trends and variations in live births and live birth rates. However, recent abortion data indicate that the current decline in teenage *birth* rates has been accompanied by declines in abortion rates as well (4,5); thus teenage *pregnancy* rates have fallen in the 1990's. According to the most recent complete estimates, the teenage pregnancy rate declined 12 percent from 1991 to 1995. The pregnancy rate for 1995 was 103 pregnancies per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years, nearly twice the birth rate in that year (56.8). In 1976 these rates were 101 (pregnancy) and 53 (live birth) (6).

Table A. Births and birth rates for teenagers by age: United States, 1991–97

[Birth rates per 1,000 women in specified age group]

Year	Number of births			Birth rate		
	10–14 years	15–17 years	18–19 years	10–14 years	15–17 years	18–19 years
1997[1]	10,852	183,324	305,886	1.2	32.6	84.4
1996	11,148	185,721	305,856	1.2	33.8	86.0
1995	12,242	192,508	307,365	1.3	36.0	89.1
1994	12,901	195,169	310,319	1.4	37.6	91.5
1993	12,554	190,535	310,558	1.4	37.8	92.1
1992	12,220	187,549	317,866	1.4	37.8	94.5
1991	12,014	188,226	331,351	1.4	38.7	94.4
Percent change, 1991–97	–9.7	–2.6	–7.7	–14.3	–15.8	–10.6

[1]Data for 1997 are preliminary; see Technical notes.

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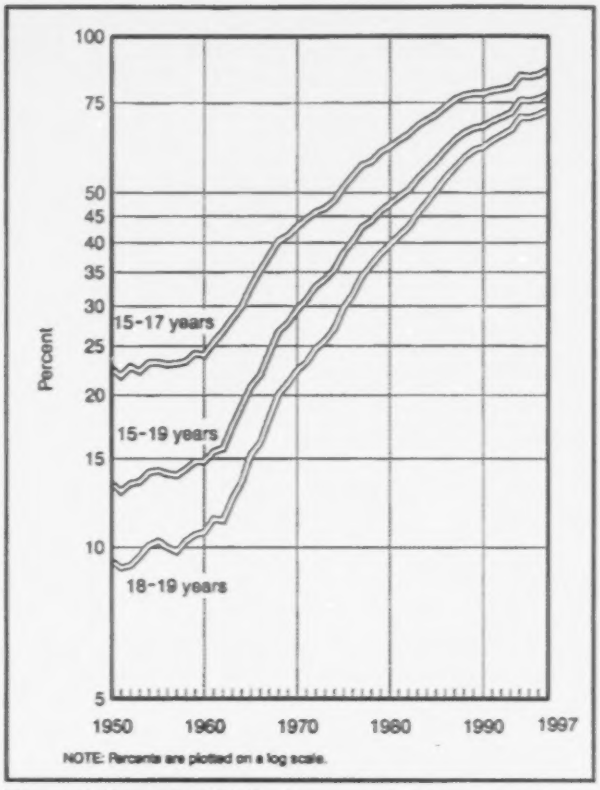

Figure 2. Percent of births to unmarried teenagers by age: United States, 1950–97

Birth rates decline for teenagers in all age groups

The live birth rate for the youngest teenagers, **10–14 years**, fell to 1.2 per 1,000 in 1997 (table 2). This rate declined from 1.4 in 1990–94 to 1.3 in 1995 and 1.2 in 1996–97. Concurrent with the decline in the birth *rate*, the number of births to this age group has fallen as well, dropping from an average of 12,000–13,000 per year in 1991–95, to under 11,000 in 1997 (table A).

The birth rate for teenagers **15–17 years** fell 4 percent between 1996 and 1997 to 32.6 per 1,000. Overall, this rate fell 16 percent from 1991 (38.7) to 1997. Sixty percent of the decline occurred from 1995 to 1997. The long-term trend for this age group has not been as steady as for older teenagers (figure 1). The rate generally declined from the early 1970's to the mid-1980's, before climbing 27 percent from 1986 to 1991, and then declining to its current level. The number of births to teenagers 15–17 years totaled 183,324 in 1997. This number did not begin to decline steadily until after 1994 (195,169). The decline in the number of births is smaller than the decline in the birth rate because, as noted earlier, the number of female teenagers in the population has increased by 16 percent, since 1991.

The birth rate for teenagers **18–19 years** declined 2 percent from 1996 to 1997 to 84.4 per 1,000. This rate fell 11 percent from 1991 to 1997. The birth rate for 18–19-year-olds declined rapidly from 1960 (166.7 per 1,000) to the late 1970's, where it stabilized at about 80 per 1,000, less than half the 1960 rate. Beginning in the late 1980's, this rate began to increase, rising 20 percent during 1987–92, and then falling again. The number of births to teenagers 18–19 years was 305,886 in 1997, about the same as in 1996 (305,856). This number declined from 1990 (338,499).

The number of births to teenagers, like the teenage birth rate, was substantially higher several decades ago than now. The peak number of births was reported in 1970, with 644,708 babies born to women aged 15–19 years. The 1970 total is nearly a third higher than in 1997.

Despite declines, black and Hispanic teenage birth rates are still high

Birth rates have dropped sharply for black teenagers (by 23 percent) from 115.5 per 1,000 aged 15–19 years in 1991 to 89.5 in 1997. The rate for Hispanic teenagers has declined since 1994, by 8 percent. Birth rates for black and Hispanic teenagers continue to be substantially higher than for other racial groups (table 2 and figure 3). All race and Hispanic origin groups have experienced declines in teenage birth rates in the 1990's. Declines for non-Hispanic white and American Indian teenagers were 16 percent each to 36.4 and 71.8 per 1,000, respectively. The rate for Asian or Pacific Islander teenagers, already the lowest of all, declined 10 percent since 1991—to 24.8 per 1,000.

In general, rates fell more for younger than for older teenagers. The largest reduction of all was the rate for black teenagers 15–17 years,

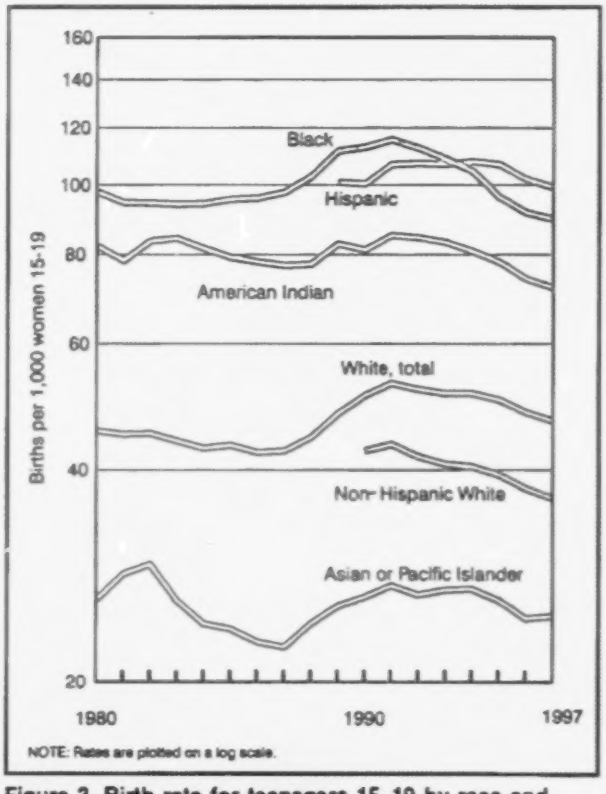

Figure 3. Birth rate for teenagers 15–19 by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1980–97

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dropping 26 percent from 84.1 to 62.3. Rates by age for Hispanic and Asian or Pacific Islander teenagers declined more for older than for younger women. Beginning in 1994, Hispanic teenagers had higher birth rates than any other group (figure 3).

Fewer teenagers have their first baby

Birth rates for teenagers can also be calculated for teenagers who have not had a live birth and for teenagers with a previous live birth. The birth rate for teenagers who have not had a live birth describes the proportion of teenagers who give birth for the first time. More commonly, first birth rates are computed by relating first births to all women in a given age group, regardless of whether or not they have had any children. The rate for childless women enables us to measure precisely changes in first time childbearing among teenagers who have not yet had a child. It is thus a refinement of the first birth rate. For teenagers, the differences between the first birth rate and the birth rate for childless teenagers are relatively small and the trends are fairly similar, because most teenagers have not had any children. For example, the *first birth rate* for teenagers 15–19 years declined from 46.5 in 1991 to 42.5 in 1996, a reduction of 9 percent. The *birth rate for childless teenagers* declined from 49.6 in 1991 to 46.7 in 1996, a reduction of 6 percent.

Birth rates for teenagers who have not had a live birth increase sharply with age, as would be expected. The rate for childless teenagers 15 years was 17.1 per 1,000 in 1996, compared with a rate of 77.4 for childless teenagers 19 years (table 3). Unlike the overall teenage birth rate which has fallen steadily since 1991, the rate for childless teenagers did not begin to fall consistently until after 1994.

Even fewer teenagers have second child

In contrast to the modest declines in birth rates for teenagers who have not had a live birth, repeat childbearing, that is, the rate of second births to teenagers who have already had one child has fallen substantially since 1991. Repeat births are of particular concern; a teenager with two or more children is at greater risk for a host of difficulties (7). The rate of second order births to teenagers who have had one child dropped 21 percent to 174 per 1,000 aged 15–19 years in 1996, from 221 per 1,000 in 1991. To put it another way, 17 percent of teenagers who have had one child gave birth to a second child in 1996, compared with 22 percent in 1991. Rates fell for teenagers at each age 16 through 19 years, with the reductions much steeper for the youngest teenagers (table 3 and figure 4). (The most recent year for which birth rates can be computed according to the number of previous births to the mother is 1996.)

Twenty-two percent of teenage births were second and higher order births in 1997, compared with 25 percent in 1991. Despite the reduction in repeat childbearing, over 100,000 teenagers gave birth to their second or higher order child in 1997.

The proportion of repeat births for young teenagers 15–17 years fell 20 percent from 1991 to 1997, from 15 to 12 percent; for young black teenagers, the proportion fell by 27 percent, from 22 percent to 16 percent. The proportion of second and higher order births for older teenagers 18–19 years declined 10 percent (from 31 to 28 percent); again, the proportion fell more for black teenagers, by 14 percent (from 42 to 36 percent).

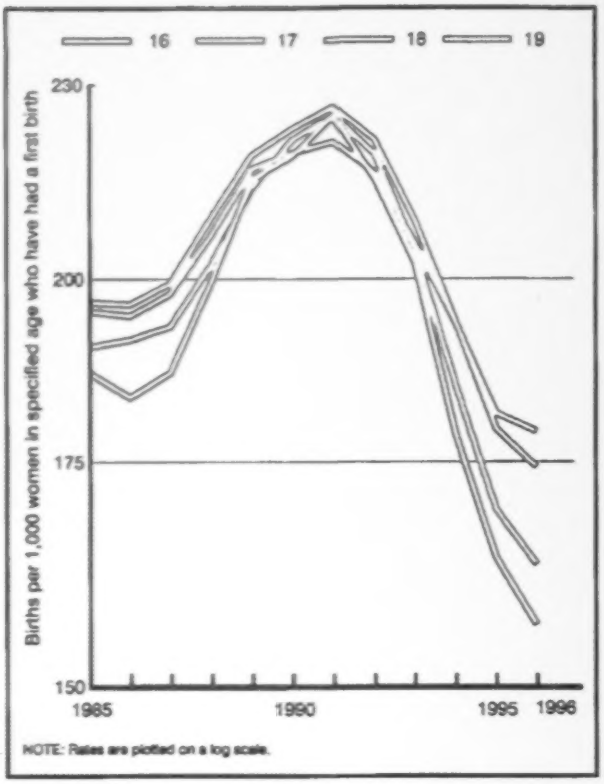

Figure 4. Rate of second births to teenagers who have had a first birth, 1985–96

Teenage childbearing has serious health consequences

Teenage mothers and their babies are at greater risk of adverse health consequences compared with older mothers. Most teenage mothers are not ready for the emotional, psychological, and financial responsibilities and challenges of parenthood (7). The vast majority of teenage pregnancies are unintended (8). Teenagers who become pregnant are less likely to receive timely prenatal care and more likely to begin care in the third trimester or have no care at all (figure 5). They are also more likely to smoke during pregnancy. Moreover, a recent report showed that in contrast to declines in smoking for older women, smoking has increased among pregnant teenagers in the mid-1990's, concurrent with increases reported for all teenagers (9,10). As a consequence of these and other factors, infants born to teenagers are more likely to be born preterm, that is, at less than 37 completed weeks of gestation, and more likely to be low birthweight (less than 5 lb 8 oz), and thus are at greater risk of serious and long-term illness, developmental delays, and of dying in the first year of life (11,12) .

Teenage birth rates vary greatly by State

Birth rates by State vary substantially (tables 4–6 and figure 6). In 1996, the most recent year for which State-level rates can be computed, rates varied from 28.6 for New Hampshire to 75.5 for

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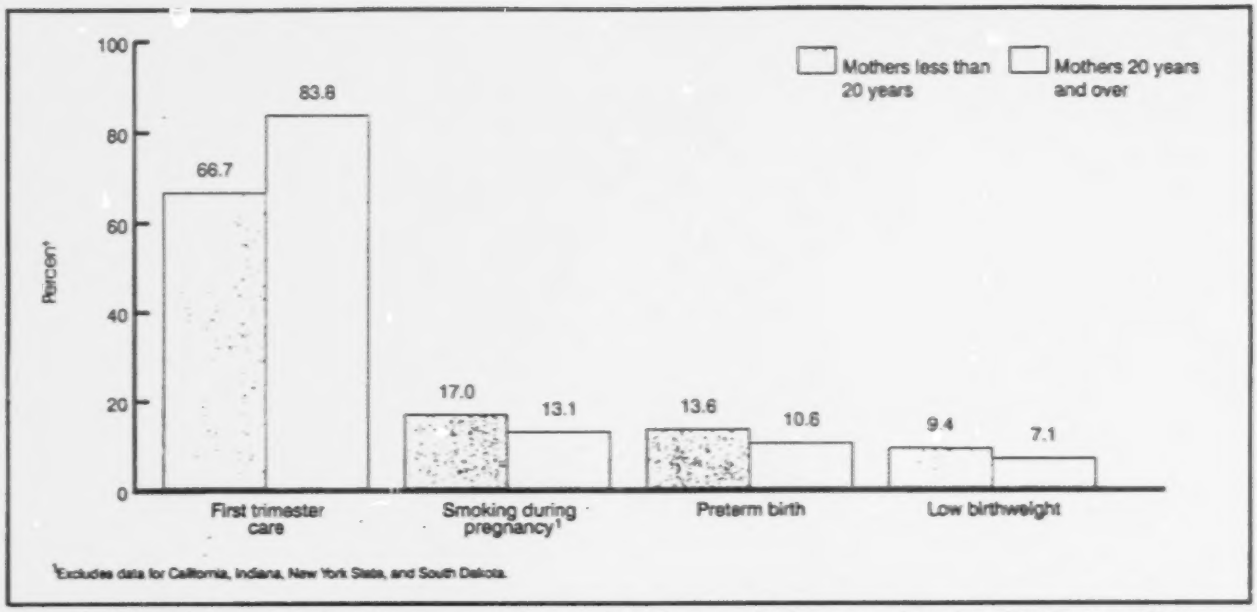

Figure 5. Selected characteristics for teenage mothers and mothers aged 20 years and over: United States, 1996

Mississippi; the rate for the District of Columbia was 102.1. The highest rate was reported for Guam (116.8). The wide variation in rates by State reflects in part the differences in the composition of the teenage population by race and Hispanic origin. As noted earlier, rates are much higher for Hispanic and black teenagers than for non-Hispanic white teenagers (table 2). Therefore, States with relatively high proportions of Hispanic and/or black teenagers would be expected to have higher overall teenage birth rates. These compositional differences should be kept in mind when comparing teenage birth rates across States (13).

Teenage birth rates decline in all States

Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years fell from 1991 to 1996 in all States and the District of Columbia (figure 7). Declines in all but three States (Delaware, North Dakota, and Rhode Island) were statistically significant. Rates fell as well for teenage subgroups, with statistically significant declines recorded for all but 13 States for teenagers 15–17 years and for all but 9 States for teenagers 18–19 years (table 4). (Declines for the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico for teenagers 18–19 years were not statistically significant. Rates increased in Guam.)

Steep reductions in State-level rates for black teenagers

Echoing the reductions in national birth rates for black teenagers, rates by State declined substantially as well (table 6). Trends in the rates for black teenagers could be reliably computed for 40 States and the District of Columbia for both 1991 and 1996. Rates fell in all States except for the District of Columbia; all declines were statistically significant except for West Virginia.

Rates for non-Hispanic white teenagers declined in all States. Reductions were statistically significant in all but four States and the District of Columbia.

Statistically reliable rates for Hispanic teenagers for both 1991 and 1996 were available for 38 States. Statistically significant increases were reported for 15 States, with declines found for 10 States. These modest changes reflect the fact that birth rates for Hispanic teenagers have declined in the United States only since 1994.

First birth rates decline and proportions of repeat births fall sharply across the country

State-specific populations of childless teenagers are not available. Therefore, first birth rates in this section are based on all teenagers 15–19 years, regardless of whether or not they have had any children. First birth rates by State in 1996 ranged from 24.9 per 1,000 aged 15–19 years in New Hampshire to 57.6 in Arkansas; the rate in the District of Columbia was 69.4 (table 7). Between 1991 and 1996, the first birth rate in the United States declined by 9 percent, from 46.5 to 42.5 per 1,000. Statistically significant declines were reported for all but 11 States. The decline in rates ranged from 4 percent (Texas) to 26 percent (Alaska). Rates increased in Puerto Rico and Guam.

Second order birth rates for teenagers "at risk," that is, for those who have had one child, cannot be computed at the State level because State-specific populations of teenagers according to the number of children they have had are not available. However, the impact of second and higher order births on all teenage births can be approximated by computing the proportion of teenage births that are second and higher order. These proportions are shown in table 7. Overall, the proportion of second and higher order births declined from 25.1 percent (1991) to 21.9 percent (1996), a drop of 13 percent. Statistically significant declines were found for all but seven States and the District of Columbia.

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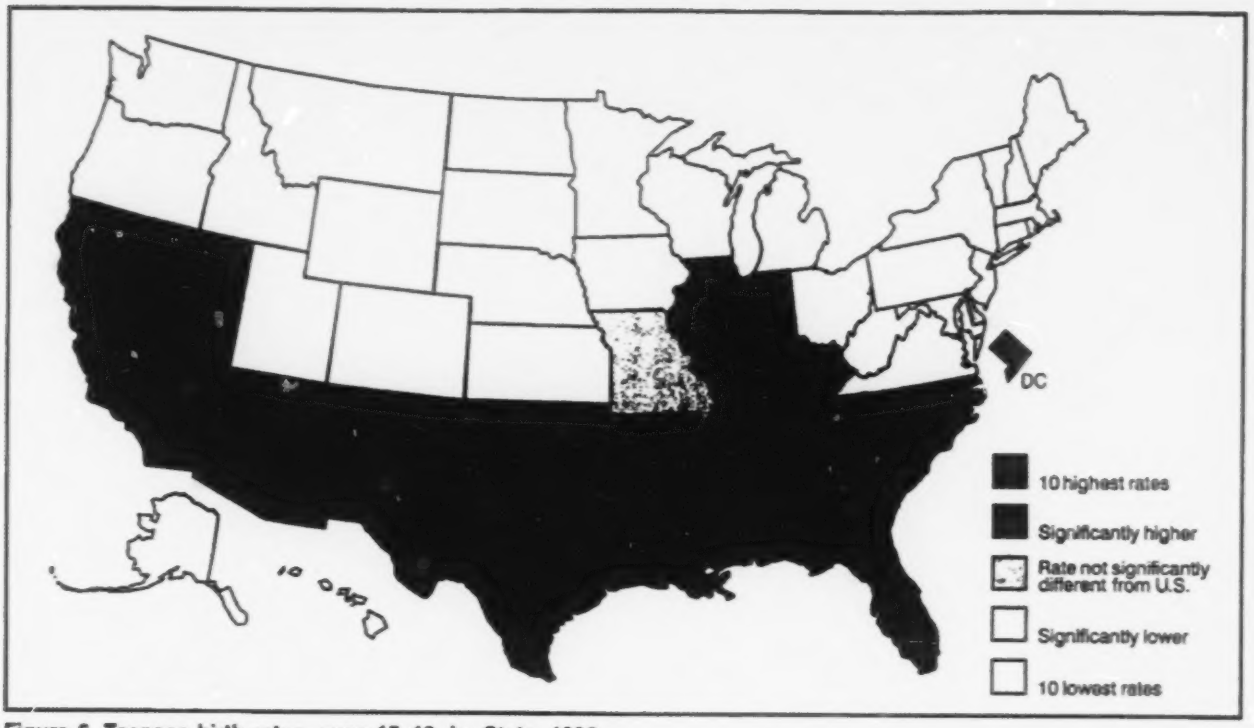

Figure 6. Teenage birth rates, ages 15–19, by State, 1996

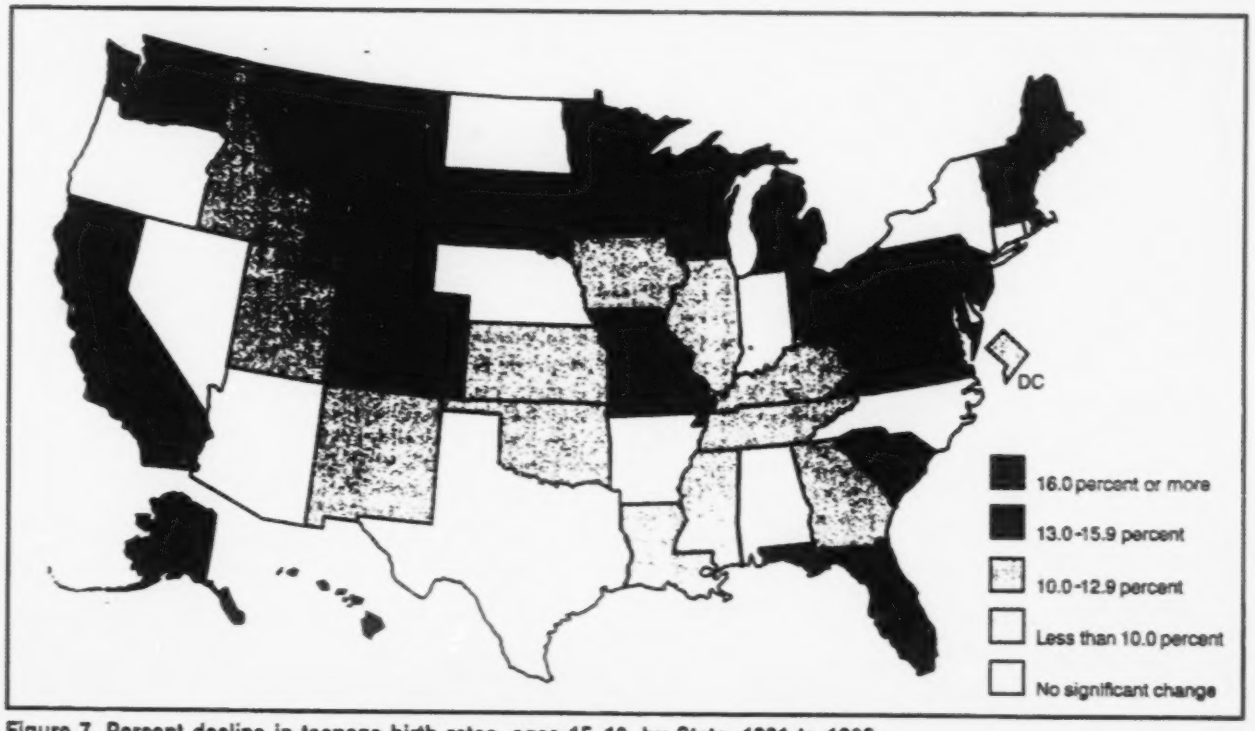

Figure 7. Percent decline in teenage birth rates, ages 15–19, by State, 1991 to 1996

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Declines were 20.0 percent or greater in eight States. The proportion of second and higher order births increased in Guam, but the rise was not statistically significant.

Declines in sexual activity and increases in condom use are key factors

The declines in birth and pregnancy rates for teenagers across the country since 1991 reflect changes in a number of demographic and behavioral factors. First, three separate surveys have shown that the proportion of teenagers who are sexually experienced has stabilized and declined in the 1990's, reversing the steady increases over the past two decades. According to results from the 1995 National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, and the National Survey of Adolescent Males (NSAM), the proportion of teenagers who are sexually experienced has fallen in the 1990's (14,15). More recently, results from the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, show that among teenagers attending school, sexual activity has declined in the 1990's through 1997 (16). Moreover, teenagers are more likely to use contraceptives at first intercourse, especially condoms. In addition, some teenagers, especially black teenagers, are using injectable and implant contraceptives (14–17). These changes in contraceptive use in particular are probably important factors in the decline in rates for second births to women who already have one child.

Teenage pregnancy has been the subject of a great deal of public interest and concern, especially since the late 1980's when rates increased rapidly. As a result, a variety of national, State, and local initiatives and strategies have been developed to reduce teenage pregnancy (18). Only a few programs have been rigorously evaluated (19) and no single approach has been identified. However, findings from the National Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health (Add Health), a large-scale, congressionally mandated survey of students in grades 7 through 12, have suggested that enhancing the connections of teenagers to their family and home, their school, and their community is essential for protecting teenagers from a vast array of risky behaviors, including sexual activity (20).

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Table 1. Births and birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years, by age and race of mother: United States, selected years, 1950–75 and 1980–97

[Birth rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

Year	All races[1]			White			Black		
	Total	15–17 years	18–19 years	Total	15–17 years	18–19 years	Total	15–17 years	18–19 years
				Number of births					
1997[2]	489,211	183,324	305,886	342,029	121,864	220,164	130,401	54,883	75,518
1996	491,577	185,721	305,856	344,685	123,376	221,309	130,596	56,026	74,570
1995	499,873	192,508	307,365	349,635	127,165	222,470	133,694	59,112	74,582
1994	505,488	195,169	310,319	348,081	126,388	221,693	140,968	62,563	78,405
1993	501,093	190,535	310,558	341,817	121,309	220,508	143,153	63,156	79,997
1992	505,415	187,549	317,866	342,739	118,786	223,953	146,800	63,002	83,798
1991	519,577	188,226	331,351	352,359	118,809	233,550	150,956	63,571	87,385
1990	521,826	183,327	338,499	354,482	114,934	239,548	151,613	62,881	88,732
1989	506,503	181,044	325,459	340,472	111,736	228,736	150,699	63,832	86,867
1988	478,353	176,624	301,729	323,830	109,739	214,091	140,608	61,856	78,752
1987	462,312	172,591	289,721	315,464	108,592	206,872	134,050	59,361	74,689
1986	461,905	168,572	293,333	317,970	107,177	210,793	131,594	57,003	74,591
1985	467,485	167,789	299,696	324,590	107,993	216,597	130,857	55,656	75,201
1984	469,582	166,744	302,938	326,301	106,782	219,519	131,497	55,932	75,565
1983	489,286	172,673	316,613	343,199	111,163	232,036	133,953	57,332	76,621
1982	513,758	181,162	332,596	363,742	117,644	246,098	137,456	59,362	78,094
1981	527,392	187,397	339,995	375,432	122,561	252,871	140,344	60,944	79,400
1980	552,161	198,222	353,939	393,564	129,341	264,223	147,378	65,069	82,309
1975	582,238	227,270	354,968	410,129	148,344	261,785	161,044	74,946	86,098
1970	644,708	223,590	421,118	463,608	143,646	319,962	171,826	76,882	94,944
1965	590,894	188,604	402,290	443,754	124,294	319,460	141,026	62,488	78,538
1960	586,966	182,408	404,558	458,130	129,544	328,586	118,044	---	---
1955	484,097	149,722	334,375	372,678	103,503	269,175	108,375	---	---
1950	419,535	126,941	292,594	318,822	85,107	233,715	98,100	---	---
				Birth rate					
1997[2]	52.9	32.6	84.4	46.8	27.4	76.6	89.5	62.3	131.2
1996	54.4	33.8	86.0	48.1	28.4	78.4	91.4	64.7	132.5
1995	56.8	36.0	89.1	50.1	30.0	81.2	96.1	69.7	137.1
1994	58.9	37.6	91.5	51.1	30.7	82.1	104.5	76.3	148.3
1993	59.6	37.8	92.1	51.1	30.3	82.1	108.6	79.8	151.9
1992	60.7	37.8	94.5	51.8	30.1	83.8	112.4	81.3	157.9
1991	62.1	38.7	94.4	52.8	30.7	83.5	115.5	84.1	158.6
1990	59.9	37.5	88.6	50.8	29.5	78.0	112.8	82.3	152.9
1989	57.3	36.4	84.2	47.9	28.1	72.9	111.5	81.9	151.9
1988	53.0	33.6	79.9	44.4	26.0	69.6	102.7	75.7	142.7
1987	50.6	31.7	78.5	42.5	24.6	68.9	97.6	72.1	135.8
1986	50.2	30.5	79.6	42.3	23.8	70.1	95.8	69.3	135.1
1985	51.0	31.0	79.6	43.3	24.4	70.4	95.4	69.3	132.4
1984	50.6	31.0	77.4	42.9	24.3	68.4	94.1	69.2	128.1
1983	51.4	31.8	77.4	43.9	25.0	68.8	93.9	69.6	127.1
1982	52.4	32.3	79.4	45.0	25.5	70.8	94.3	69.7	128.9
1981	52.2	32.0	80.0	44.9	25.4	71.5	94.5	69.3	131.0
1980	53.0	32.5	82.1	45.4	25.5	73.2	97.8	72.5	135.1
1975	55.6	36.1	85.0	46.4	28.0	74.0	111.8	85.6	152.4
1970	68.3	38.8	114.7	57.4	29.2	101.5	140.7	101.4	204.9
1965	70.5	36.6	124.5	60.6	27.8	111.9	144.6	99.3	227.8
1960	89.1	43.9	166.7	79.4	35.5	154.6	156.1	---	---
1955	90.3	---	---	79.1	---	---	---	---	---
1950	81.6	---	---	70.0	---	---	---	---	---

--- Data not available.

[1]Includes races other than white and black.

[2]Data for 1997 are preliminary; figures are based on weighted data rounded to the nearest individual, so categories may not add to total; see Technical notes.

NOTE: Figures for 1950–75 are by race of child; see reference 11.

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Table 2. Birth rates for women under 20 years, by age, race, and Hispanic origin: United States, 1990–97, and percent change in rates, 1991–97

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

Age and race and Hispanic origin of mother	1997[1]	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	Percent change, 1991–97
10–14 years									
Total	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	–14.3
White, total	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	–12.5
Non-Hispanic White	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	–20.0
Black	3.5	3.6	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.9	–27.1
American Indian[2]	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	6.3
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	–37.5
Hispanic[3]	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.4	8.3
15–19 years									
Total	52.9	54.4	56.8	58.9	59.6	60.7	62.1	59.9	–14.8
White, total	46.8	48.1	50.1	51.1	51.1	51.8	52.8	50.8	–11.4
Non-Hispanic White	36.4	37.6	39.3	40.4	40.7	41.7	43.4	42.5	–16.1
Black	89.5	91.4	96.1	104.5	108.6	112.4	115.5	112.8	–22.5
American Indian[2]	71.8	73.9	78.0	80.8	83.1	84.4	85.0	81.1	–15.5
Asian or Pacific Islander	24.8	24.6	26.1	27.1	27.0	26.6	27.4	26.4	–9.5
Hispanic[3]	99.1	101.8	106.7	107.7	106.8	107.1	106.7	100.3	–7.1
15–17 years									
Total	32.6	33.8	36.0	37.6	37.8	37.8	38.7	37.5	–15.8
White, total	27.4	28.4	30.0	30.7	30.3	30.1	30.7	29.5	–10.7
Non-Hispanic White	19.5	20.6	22.0	22.8	22.7	22.7	23.6	23.2	–17.4
Black	62.3	64.7	69.7	76.3	79.8	81.3	84.1	82.3	–25.9
American Indian[2]	45.3	46.4	47.8	51.3	53.7	53.8	52.7	48.5	–14.0
Asian or Pacific Islander	15.3	14.9	15.4	16.1	16.0	15.2	16.1	16.0	–5.0
Hispanic[3]	68.2	69.0	72.9	74.0	71.7	71.4	70.6	65.9	–3.4
18–19 years									
Total	84.4	86.0	89.1	91.5	92.1	94.5	94.4	88.6	–10.6
White, total	76.6	78.4	81.2	82.1	82.1	83.8	83.5	78.0	–8.3
Non-Hispanic White	62.5	63.7	66.1	67.4	67.7	69.8	70.5	66.6	–11.3
Black	131.2	132.5	137.1	148.3	151.9	157.9	158.6	152.9	–17.3
American Indian[2]	117.7	122.3	130.7	130.3	130.7	132.6	134.3	129.3	–12.4
Asian or Pacific Islander	40.4	40.4	43.4	44.1	43.3	43.1	43.1	40.2	–6.3
Hispanic[3]	145.8	151.1	157.9	158.0	159.1	159.7	158.5	147.7	–8.0

[1]Data for 1997 are preliminary; see Technical notes.
[2]Includes births to Aleuts and Eskimos.
[3]Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

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Table 3. Birth rates for teenagers for first births and for second births, by single year of age of mother: United States, 1985–96

[Rates for first births are births per 1,000 childless women in specified age group. Rates for second births are births per 1,000 women who have had a first birth]

Year	First births						Second births				
	15–19 years	15 years	16 years	17 years	18 years	19 years	15–19 years	18 years	17 years	18 years	19 years
1996	46.7	17.1	31.3	48.5	65.7	77.4	173.5	156.6	163.3	174.7	179.0
1995	49.2	18.4	33.4	51.4	68.9	80.5	177.5	164.1	169.7	179.3	181.2
1994	50.0	19.3	34.4	52.4	69.9	81.1	189.6	178.6	184.6	192.7	192.6
1993	49.3	19.2	34.1	51.7	68.7	80.0	203.6	200.8	202.7	206.7	203.5
1992	48.9	19.0	33.6	51.1	68.2	79.2	216.9	212.9	216.5	218.7	213.7
1991	49.6	19.1	34.2	52.2	68.9	79.6	220.9	222.2	222.4	223.7	218.3
1990	47.9	18.6	33.1	50.2	66.4	76.5	218.2	216.1	218.6	220.3	216.6
1989	45.9	18.2	31.9	46.0	63.1	73.3	215.0	212.7	211.3	216.2	214.2
1988	43.0	16.9	29.6	44.4	59.2	69.5	205.3	198.1	200.5	207.1	204.7
1987	41.8	16.1	28.4	43.1	57.9	68.6	195.8	186.3	192.2	197.9	196.5
1986	41.9	15.5	27.8	43.2	58.5	69.7	193.2	183.2	190.5	195.1	193.6
1985	42.1	15.3	28.1	43.7	59.0	69.7	192.1	186.3	189.6	195.4	194.2
Percent change, 1991–96	–5.8	–10.5	–8.5	–7.1	–4.6	–2.8	–21.5	–29.5	–26.6	–21.9	–18.0

NOTE: Rates for second births are not computed for teenagers 15 years of age, because less than 1 percent of women aged 15 have had one child.

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Table 4. Birth rates for teenagers aged 15–19 years, by age group and State, and percent change by age: United States, 1991 to 1996

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	1991			1996			Percent change, 1991–96		
	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years
United States[1]	62.1	38.7	94.4	54.4	33.8	86.0	–12.4	–12.7	–8.9
Alabama	73.9	47.7	109.5	69.2	45.3	104.1	–6.4	–5.1	–4.9
Alaska	65.4	35.3	111.7	46.4	26.5	75.2	–29.1	–24.9	–32.7
Arizona	80.7	51.4	122.6	73.9	48.9	110.7	–8.4	–4.8	–9.7
Arkansas	79.8	49.4	122.8	75.4	44.9	121.7	–5.5	–9.0	–0.9**
California	74.7	46.9	113.6	62.6	39.2	99.1	–16.2	–16.5	–12.8
Colorado	58.2	35.3	91.4	49.5	30.2	79.7	–14.9	–14.5	–12.8
Connecticut	40.4	26.3	59.4	37.4	24.4	58.3	–7.4	–7.1**	–1.8**
Delaware	61.1	40.3	87.1	56.9	41.0	79.9	–6.9**	1.8**	–8.2**
District of Columbia	114.4	102.8	125.5	102.1	79.0	132.5	–10.8	–23.2	5.6**
Florida	68.8	44.0	102.9	58.9	36.7	94.1	–14.4	–16.6	–8.5
Georgia	76.3	50.6	110.9	68.2	45.4	103.3	–10.6	–10.3	–6.9
Hawaii	58.7	34.7	91.5	48.1	28.0	76.2	–18.1	–19.3	–16.7
Idaho	53.9	29.3	90.8	47.2	26.5	77.7	–12.4	–9.7**	–14.5
Illinois	64.8	40.6	99.1	57.1	36.1	90.9	–11.9	–11.1	–8.3
Indiana	60.5	35.2	95.2	56.1	32.9	91.4	–7.3	–6.5	–3.9
Iowa	42.6	22.8	71.5	37.8	21.4	63.6	–11.3	–6.2**	–11.0
Kansas	55.4	29.4	94.1	49.6	27.8	84.2	–10.5	–5.4**	–10.5
Kentucky	68.9	42.6	105.5	61.5	36.9	97.9	–10.7	–13.4	–7.2
Louisiana	76.1	51.1	111.4	66.7	42.9	102.3	–12.4	–16.0	–8.2
Maine	43.5	23.8	70.1	31.4	16.8	54.5	–27.8	–29.3	–22.2
Maryland	54.3	35.2	79.8	46.1	29.6	72.3	–15.1	–15.9	–9.4
Massachusetts	37.8	25.2	52.9	32.2	19.9	50.6	–14.8	–20.9	–4.4**
Michigan	59.0	35.5	91.1	46.5	28.2	75.5	–21.2	–20.6	–17.1
Minnesota	37.3	20.7	61.4	32.1	18.5	54.2	–13.9	–10.6	–11.7
Mississippi	85.6	60.1	120.4	75.5	52.1	110.5	–11.8	–13.3	–8.2
Missouri	64.5	38.7	100.7	53.7	31.0	89.7	–16.7	–20.0	–10.9
Montana	46.7	23.6	83.0	38.6	21.2	65.8	–17.3	–10.1**	–20.7
Nebraska	42.4	23.6	69.2	38.7	22.2	63.7	–8.7	–5.9**	–7.9
Nevada	75.3	43.9	119.1	69.6	42.1	113.5	–7.6	–4.2**	–4.7**
New Hampshire	33.3	17.1	53.8	28.6	15.1	50.9	–14.1	–11.5**	–5.3**
New Jersey	41.6	26.3	62.9	35.4	22.9	55.3	–14.9	–13.0	–12.1
New Mexico	79.8	50.0	124.4	70.9	45.8	110.7	–11.2	–8.4	–11.0
New York	46.0	29.1	69.0	41.8	25.6	66.4	–9.1	–11.9	–3.8
North Carolina	70.5	46.2	101.7	63.5	40.8	97.5	–9.9	–11.8	–4.1
North Dakota	35.6	18.1	62.4	32.3	16.1	58.1	–9.3**	–11.1**	–6.9**
Ohio	60.5	36.2	93.8	50.4	29.5	82.6	–16.7	–18.6	–12.0
Oklahoma	72.1	41.7	115.6	63.4	37.2	104.7	–12.1	–10.9	–9.4
Oregon	54.9	31.3	90.7	50.8	29.4	84.7	–7.5	–6.0**	–6.6**
Pennsylvania	46.9	29.2	70.5	39.3	24.5	62.5	–16.2	–16.1	–11.3
Rhode Island	45.4	30.1	63.6	42.5	27.3	65.7	–6.4**	–9.3**	3.4**
South Carolina	72.9	48.0	105.4	62.9	41.3	94.2	–13.7	–14.0	–10.7
South Dakota	47.5	26.3	79.2	39.5	22.4	66.0	–16.8	–15.0	–16.7
Tennessee	75.2	47.8	112.1	66.1	40.2	105.8	–12.1	–15.9	–5.6
Texas	78.9	50.4	119.3	73.5	48.8	111.3	–6.8	–3.2	–6.7
Utah	48.2	27.0	79.8	42.8	24.3	68.6	–11.2	–9.9	–14.0
Vermont	39.2	21.3	62.0	30.1	15.2	54.1	–23.2	–28.6	–12.8
Virginia	53.5	31.8	81.2	45.5	27.7	71.6	–15.0	–12.8	–11.8
Washington	53.7	31.0	86.5	45.0	26.1	74.5	–16.2	–15.7	–13.8
West Virginia	57.8	32.4	93.2	50.3	28.7	81.9	–13.0	–11.5	–12.2
Wisconsin	43.7	24.8	71.2	36.8	21.7	60.7	–15.8	–12.6	–14.7
Wyoming	54.2	26.4	98.6	44.0	24.9	74.9	–18.8	–5.8**	–24.1
Puerto Rico	72.4	50.8	105.9	74.8	55.6	102.7	3.3	9.4	–3.0**
Virgin Islands	77.9	48.6	124.0	54.9	35.0	84.9	–29.5	–28.0	–31.5
Guam	95.7	55.0	156.1	116.8	69.5	191.5	22.0	26.4	22.7

** Not significant at $p < 0.05$.

[1] Excludes data for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam.

NOTE: Birth rates by State shown in this table are based on population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and, therefore, the rates shown here may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates.

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Table 5. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years, by age and race/Hispanic origin: United States and each State, 1996

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	15–19 years					15–17 years					18–19 years				
		White					White					White			
	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]
United States	54.4	48.1	37.6	91.4	101.8	33.8	28.4	20.6	64.7	69.0	89.1	78.4	63.7	132.5	151.1
Alabama	69.2	54.8	54.2	98.4	95.7	45.3	32.4	32.1	71.0	*	104.1	87.4	86.4	138.9	*
Alaska	46.4	36.2	34.5	*	*	26.5	17.8	16.7	*	*	75.2	62.1	59.4	*	*
Arizona	73.9	74.4	45.2	75.2	132.8	48.9	48.8	26.1	56.4	94.9	110.7	111.5	72.9	103.3	187.8
Arkansas	75.4	65.9	64.4	108.1	121.3	44.9	35.8	34.9	76.4	70.8	121.7	111.6	109.0	156.6	*
California	62.6	67.7	32.4	76.5	104.0	39.2	42.3	17.0	49.6	69.5	89.1	106.7	56.9	118.3	155.7
Colorado	49.5	48.2	32.5	74.7	111.7	30.2	29.3	17.9	44.9	76.1	79.7	77.4	55.3	122.3	166.4
Connecticut	37.4	31.7	19.2	79.5	113.6	24.4	20.2	10.8	56.0	82.5	58.3	50.3	32.8	117.2	162.1
Delaware	56.9	40.0	35.3	109.5	*	41.0	26.3	23.3	85.9	*	79.9	59.9	52.7	143.9	*
District of Columbia	102.1	29.0	8.8	148.9	103.6	79.0	36.6	*	92.6	*	132.5	25.4	8.2	290.3	*
Florida	58.9	48.8	43.5	95.7	67.5	36.7	28.1	24.3	67.6	42.6	94.1	81.6	74.8	140.3	104.2
Georgia	68.2	55.0	51.2	94.6	132.0	45.4	33.5	31.3	68.6	77.8	103.3	87.8	81.4	135.3	213.1
Hawaii	48.1	25.3	22.0	36.1	104.7	28.0	9.3	7.2	*	67.1	76.2	46.6	41.6	*	158.8
Idaho	47.2	46.8	41.5	*	103.2	26.5	26.3	22.4	*	67.9	77.7	76.7	69.6	*	153.8
Illinois	57.1	44.2	31.6	117.6	111.3	36.1	25.4	17.0	85.0	70.5	90.9	74.4	55.0	170.4	175.1
Indiana	56.1	50.7	49.2	105.3	93.6	32.9	28.3	27.3	74.0	59.0	91.4	84.7	82.6	153.4	144.1
Iowa	37.8	35.6	33.9	107.6	108.1	21.4	19.6	18.2	77.1	82.5	63.6	60.6	58.6	154.7	*
Kansas	49.6	45.5	40.7	106.2	111.1	27.8	24.7	21.0	70.0	76.2	84.2	78.6	71.9	163.8	167.0
Kentucky	61.5	57.8	57.5	103.4	88.7	36.9	33.1	33.0	78.1	*	97.9	94.2	93.7	141.4	*
Louisiana	66.7	47.3	47.4	96.9	41.3	42.9	26.3	26.3	68.7	23.6	102.3	78.7	79.1	138.9	66.6
Maine	31.4	31.2	31.2	*	*	16.8	16.7	16.6	*	*	54.5	54.2	54.3	*	*
Maryland	46.1	31.7	29.7	79.0	59.3	29.6	17.6	16.4	56.7	35.0	72.3	54.4	51.0	113.8	97.4
Massachusetts	32.2	28.7	21.0	72.0	109.0	19.9	17.5	11.5	46.7	78.4	50.6	45.6	35.3	109.0	155.3
Michigan	46.5	37.0	34.6	93.5	94.5	28.2	21.0	19.4	64.6	61.5	75.5	62.6	59.0	137.8	146.4
Minnesota	32.1	26.5	24.2	120.9	132.4	18.5	14.2	12.6	89.3	87.1	54.2	46.6	43.0	172.9	204.1
Mississippi	75.5	52.1	52.2	102.0	*	52.1	29.8	29.9	77.8	*	110.5	85.5	85.7	138.4	*
Missouri	53.7	45.5	44.6	105.9	84.1	31.0	24.2	23.5	73.8	57.7	89.7	79.2	78.2	156.7	124.4
Montana	38.6	32.8	31.3	*	*	21.2	16.8	15.3	*	*	65.8	57.5	56.1	*	*
Nebraska	38.7	34.7	30.9	99.6	103.9	22.2	18.6	15.6	78.1	75.6	63.7	58.9	54.0	134.0	144.9
Nevada	69.6	67.2	50.2	100.2	127.0	42.1	40.3	27.8	65.6	86.0	113.5	110.1	86.3	153.9	189.5
New Hampshire	28.6	28.4	27.6	*	*	15.1	15.1	14.7	*	*	50.9	50.5	48.9	*	*
New Jersey	35.4	26.3	14.5	81.3	78.6	22.9	16.0	7.9	57.5	53.0	55.3	42.7	25.2	119.3	117.2
New Mexico	70.9	71.1	42.7	55.0	94.1	45.8	46.5	22.5	36.2	66.6	110.7	109.5	74.7	*	136.7
New York	41.8	36.4	23.8	66.4	78.5	25.6	21.3	12.7	44.2	51.1	66.4	59.3	40.5	98.9	119.2
North Carolina	63.5	51.5	47.3	91.2	175.4	40.8	30.0	27.8	65.8	97.0	97.5	83.6	76.6	129.2	294.4
North Dakota	32.3	27.1	26.3	*	*	16.1	12.3	12.3	*	*	58.1	50.4	48.4	*	*
Ohio	50.4	42.9	41.8	100.6	89.4	29.5	23.1	22.4	71.1	56.6	82.6	73.3	71.7	147.2	137.3
Oklahoma	63.4	57.9	54.7	92.8	102.0	37.2	32.4	30.3	63.9	62.9	104.7	97.2	92.6	138.3	163.9
Oregon	50.8	50.1	43.5	85.7	128.4	29.4	28.3	23.3	65.5	88.6	84.7	84.5	75.3	116.9	193.1
Pennsylvania	39.3	31.4	27.6	100.5	127.1	24.5	17.9	14.9	75.4	93.2	62.5	52.6	47.5	138.8	178.5
Rhode Island	42.5	37.5	28.0	82.2	126.7	27.3	22.8	16.0	60.7	88.0	65.7	59.9	46.3	*	187.1
South Carolina	62.9	49.1	48.2	84.5	91.4	41.3	29.3	28.9	60.2	*	94.2	77.7	76.1	120.3	*
South Dakota	39.5	30.4	30.0	*	*	22.4	15.7	15.4	*	*	66.0	52.7	52.2	*	*
Tennessee	66.1	56.6	55.8	101.8	104.3	40.2	31.2	30.8	73.3	53.4	105.8	95.1	93.7	147.1	*

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 5. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years, by age and race/Hispanic origin: United States and each State, 1996—Con.

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	15–19 years					15–17 years					18–19 years				
		White					White					White			
	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]
Texas	73.5	73.0	45.3	88.1	109.4	48.8	48.1	25.7	61.9	78.1	111.3	111.2	75.6	128.9	156.5
Utah	42.8	42.2	36.8	*	125.6	24.3	23.9	19.6	*	91.5	68.6	67.4	60.7	*	173.7
Vermont	30.1	30.5	30.9	*	*	15.2	15.2	15.3	*	*	54.1	55.6	57.1	*	*
Virginia	45.5	36.4	34.5	77.6	66.5	27.7	20.0	18.6	53.5	42.8	71.6	60.3	57.6	112.9	100.5
Washington	45.0	43.7	37.1	71.7	112.3	26.1	24.7	19.8	46.4	76.0	74.5	72.9	63.6	110.5	167.6
West Virginia	50.3	49.4	49.5	81.0	*	28.7	27.9	28.0	52.4	*	81.9	80.7	81.0	121.4	*
Wisconsin	36.8	27.7	24.7	129.6	113.4	21.7	14.3	12.4	95.6	69.9	60.7	48.7	43.9	185.2	181.5
Wyoming	44.0	42.4	39.5	*	79.5	24.9	23.7	21.0	*	*	74.9	72.7	69.4	*	*

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (based on fewer than 20 births or fewer than 1,000 women in specified group).

[1] Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

NOTES: Rates by race and Hispanic origin cannot be computed for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam because populations are not available by race and Hispanic origin for these areas. Birth rates shown in this table are based on population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and, therefore, the rates shown here may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates.

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Table 6. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years, by race and Hispanic origin: United States and each State, 1991 and 1996 and percent change, 1991 to 1996

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	Non-Hispanic white			Black			Hispanic		
	1991	1996	Percent change 1991–96	1991	1996	Percent change 1991–96	1991	1996	Percent change 1991–96
United States	43.2	37.6	–12.9	115.4	91.4	–20.8	107.1	101.8	–4.9
Alabama	56.4	54.2	–3.8	111.0	98.4	–11.3	*	95.7	*
Alaska	50.8	34.5	–32.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Arizona	53.5	45.2	–15.5	126.7	75.2	–40.7	131.1	132.8	1.3**
Arkansas	66.8	64.4	–3.6**	127.3	108.1	–15.1	*	121.3	*
California	42.9	32.4	–24.4	98.7	76.5	–22.5	122.4	104.0	–15.0
Colorado	40.2	32.5	–19.2	122.3	74.7	–38.9	118.7	111.7	–5.8
Connecticut	20.4	19.2	–5.8**	98.4	79.5	–19.3	131.9	113.6	–13.9
Delaware	37.5	35.3	–5.8**	134.0	109.5	–18.3	*	*	*
District of Columbia	10.2	8.8	–14.4**	135.3	148.9	10.1	*	103.6	*
Florida	50.6	43.5	–14.1	132.4	95.7	–27.7	80.5	67.5	11.6
Georgia	54.7	51.2	–6.5	118.4	94.6	–20.2	90.5	132.0	45.9
Hawaii	37.9	22.0	–42.0	*	36.1	*	116.0	104.7	–9.7**
Idaho	48.9	41.5	–15.0	*	*	*	124.9	103.2	–17.4
Illinois	36.9	31.6	–14.3	146.1	117.6	–19.5	103.4	111.3	7.6
Indiana	53.0	49.2	–7.2	126.6	105.3	–16.8	64.4	93.6	45.4
Iowa	39.5	33.9	–14.2	138.1	107.6	–22.1	80.9	108.1	33.7
Kansas	46.8	40.7	–12.9	131.4	106.2	–19.2	98.1	111.1	13.3**
Kentucky	64.8	57.5	–11.4	117.6	103.4	–12.1	*	88.7	*
Louisiana	52.7	47.4	–10.1	117.5	96.9	–17.5	24.8	41.3	66.6
Maine	43.3	31.2	–27.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Maryland	36.2	29.7	–17.9	96.9	79.0	–18.5	44.2	59.3	34.0
Massachusetts	25.3	21.0	–16.9	95.7	72.0	–24.8	129.8	109.0	–16.0
Michigan	41.1	34.6	–15.7	130.1	93.5	–28.1	90.3	94.5	4.7**
Minnesota	29.2	24.2	–17.1	156.3	120.9	–22.6	100.9	132.4	31.3
Mississippi	59.1	52.2	–11.7	117.6	102.0	–13.3	*	*	*
Missouri	51.3	44.6	–13.0	146.3	105.9	–27.6	67.4	84.1	24.8
Montana	38.7	31.3	–19.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nebraska	34.7	30.9	–10.9	130.3	99.6	–23.5	99.8	103.9	4.0**
Nevada	60.4	50.2	–16.9	138.4	100.2	–27.6	114.1	127.0	11.3
New Hampshire	---	27.6	---	*	*	*	---	*	*
New Jersey	18.2	14.5	–20.2	103.3	81.3	–21.3	85.1	78.6	–7.7
New Mexico	50.9	42.7	–16.1	100.8	55.0	–45.5	101.0	94.1	–6.7
New York	26.3	23.8	–9.5	76.7	66.4	–13.4	85.4	78.5	–8.1
North Carolina	52.5	47.3	–9.9	110.9	91.2	–17.8	104.0	175.4	68.6
North Dakota	28.8	26.3	–8.7**	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ohio	48.9	41.8	–14.7	134.7	100.6	–25.3	83.1	89.4	7.6**
Oklahoma	61.5	54.7	–11.0	132.0	92.8	–29.7	91.7	102.0	11.3**
Oregon	49.2	43.5	–11.6	113.1	85.7	–24.2	131.4	128.4	–2.3**
Pennsylvania	33.1	27.6	–16.4	132.5	100.5	–24.1	130.1	127.1	–2.3**
Rhode Island	33.5	28.0	–16.3	120.6	82.2	–31.8	109.2	126.7	16.1**
South Carolina	54.6	48.2	–11.8	102.8	84.5	–17.8	65.6	91.4	39.3
South Dakota	35.6	30.0	–15.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tennessee	61.9	55.8	–9.9	129.3	101.8	–21.3	44.6	104.3	133.8
Texas	49.6	45.3	–8.8	116.0	88.1	–24.0	110.2	109.4	–0.7**
Utah	44.4	36.8	–17.1	*	*	*	104.3	125.6	20.4
Vermont	39.5	30.9	–21.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Virginia	40.5	34.5	–14.8	98.3	77.6	–21.0	62.0	66.5	7.4**
Washington	46.5	37.1	–20.3	97.4	71.7	–26.4	125.8	112.3	–10.7
West Virginia	57.4	49.5	–13.8	85.2	81.0	–4.9**	*	*	*
Wisconsin	30.1	24.7	–18.0	173.7	129.6	–25.4	93.0	113.4	21.9
Wyoming	50.0	39.5	–21.0	*	*	*	76.3	79.5	4.2**

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (based on fewer than 20 births or fewer than 1,000 women in specified group).

** Not significant at $p < 0.05$.

--- Data not available.

NOTES: Birth rates by State shown in this table are based on population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and, therefore, the rates shown here may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates. Rates by race and Hispanic origin cannot be computed for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam because populations by race and Hispanic origin are not available for these areas.

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Table 7. First birth rates for teenagers aged 15–19 years and percent change in rates by State, and percent of births to teenagers 15–19 years that are second and higher order and percent change in second and higher order births by State: United States, 1991–96

[Rates are first births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years in specified State and year]

State	First birth rate[1]			Second and higher order births as percent of all births to teens 15–19		
	1991	1996	Percent change 1991–96	1991	1996	Percent change 1991–96
United States[2]	46.5	42.5	-8.7	25.1	21.9	-12.7
Alabama	53.8	52.6	-2.2**	27.1	23.9	-11.8
Alaska	51.0	37.7	-26.1	22.1	18.7	-15.4**
Arizona	60.4	57.5	-4.8	25.1	22.2	-11.6
Arkansas	58.2	57.6	-1.0**	27.1	23.6	-12.9
California	57.0	48.6	-14.7	23.5	22.3	-5.1
Colorado	45.2	39.7	-12.1**	22.6	19.8	-12.4
Connecticut	30.4	29.9	-1.8**	24.5	20.0	-18.4
Delaware	44.5	45.0	1.0**	27.0	21.0	-22.2
District of Columbia	75.1	69.4	-7.5	34.4	32.0	-7.0**
Florida	49.1	45.2	-8.0	28.5	23.2	-18.6
Georgia	54.0	51.6	-4.4	29.1	24.3	-16.5
Hawaii	46.3	39.2	-15.4	21.1	18.5	-12.3**
Idaho	42.5	38.5	-9.4	21.2	18.4	-13.2
Illinois	46.9	43.2	-7.9	27.7	24.4	-11.9
Indiana	46.4	43.9	-5.4	23.2	21.7	-6.5
Iowa	33.8	31.1	-8.0	20.8	17.7	-14.9
Kansas	42.2	39.4	-6.6	24.0	20.6	-14.2
Kentucky	52.4	49.0	-6.5	23.8	20.3	-14.7
Louisiana	55.6	50.9	-8.4	27.0	23.6	-12.6
Maine	34.8	26.6	-23.4	20.0	15.3	-23.5
Maryland	39.8	36.9	-7.2	26.5	19.8	-25.3
Massachusetts	29.7	26.3	-11.4	21.4	18.4	-14.0
Michigan	43.4	36.4	-16.1	26.4	21.7	-17.8
Minnesota	29.2	26.0	-11.1	21.8	19.1	-12.4
Mississippi	60.5	56.3	-7.0	29.3	25.4	-13.3
Missouri	47.8	42.4	-11.2	25.8	20.9	-19.0
Montana	37.5	32.5	-13.4	19.9	15.9	-20.1
Nebraska	32.9	32.1	-2.4**	22.4	17.1	-23.7
Nevada	58.0	54.9	-5.4**	22.7	21.2	-6.6**
New Hampshire	27.1	24.9	-7.9**	18.2	12.7	-30.2
New Jersey	31.9	28.2	-11.7	23.1	20.4	-11.7
New Mexico	60.9	56.7	-7.0	23.7	20.0	-15.6
New York	35.3	33.3	-5.8	23.1	20.3	-12.1
North Carolina	52.0	49.2	-5.3	26.1	22.5	-13.8
North Dakota	30.3	27.6	-8.7**	15.2	14.5	-4.6**
Ohio	45.2	39.6	-12.5	25.2	21.4	-15.1
Oklahoma	54.3	50.5	-7.1	24.7	20.3	-17.8
Oregon	42.6	41.1	-3.4**	22.5	19.1	-15.1
Pennsylvania	35.4	31.1	-12.2	24.5	20.9	-14.7
Rhode Island	33.2	33.2	0.2**	26.9	21.7	-19.3
South Carolina	53.1	49.7	-6.4	27.1	21.0	-22.5
South Dakota	38.1	32.8	-13.8	19.9	16.8	-15.6**
Tennessee	55.2	51.3	-7.2	26.5	22.5	-15.1
Texas	57.9	55.5	-4.2	26.5	24.4	-7.9
Utah	38.4	35.4	-7.8	20.5	17.3	-15.6
Vermont	32.6	25.8	-20.9	16.7	14.1	-15.6**
Virginia	40.6	36.7	-9.6	24.0	19.5	-18.8
Washington	42.3	36.5	-13.7	21.1	19.0	-10.0
West Virginia	46.5	41.1	-11.6	19.6	18.3	-6.6**
Wisconsin	32.4	29.1	-10.5	25.9	21.1	-18.5
Wyoming	42.9	37.6	-12.4	21.1	14.6	-30.8
Puerto Rico	50.1	53.3	6.4	30.8	28.8	-6.5
Virgin Islands	58.4	42.9	-26.5	25.0	21.8	-12.8**
Guam	72.0	83.6	16.1	24.8	28.3	14.1**

** Not significant at $p < 0.05$.

[1]Rates computed on the basis of all women aged 15–19 years; populations of teenage women who are childless are not available by State.

[2]Excludes data for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam.

NOTE: Birth rates by State shown in this table are based on population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and, therefore, the rates shown here may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates.

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Technical notes

Data shown in this report for 1996 and earlier years are based on 100 percent of the birth certificates registered in all States and the District of Columbia. More than 99 percent of births occurring in this country are registered. Data shown for 1997 are preliminary, based on a sample file of 99 percent of births for that year (21). Tabulations by State also include Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. However, totals shown for the United States do not include these areas.

Tabulations by race and Hispanic origin of mother are based on this information as reported on the birth certificate. Race and Hispanic origin are reported independently on the birth certificate. Although the overwhelming majority of Hispanic births (97 percent) are to white women, there are substantial differences in teenage childbearing patterns between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women. Therefore, data are shown separately for these groups.

Population data for computing birth rates were provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (1,22,23). Rates by State shown here may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates. State rates are based on mother's place of residence. Population estimates by race and Hispanic origin are not available for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and Guam.

Rates were not computed if there were fewer than 20 births in the numerator or fewer than 1,000 women in the specified group in the denominator. An asterisk is shown in place of the rate.

Data on first birth rates and birth rates for women who have not had a live birth (i.e., childless women) are included in this report. The rate for childless women enables us to measure precisely changes in first-time childbearing among teenagers who have not yet had a child. It is thus a refinement of the first birth rate, which relates first births to all teenagers, regardless of whether they have had any children. For teenagers, the differences between the first birth rate and the birth rate for childless women are relatively small and the trends are fairly similar, because most teenagers have not had any children. For example, the *first birth rate* for teenagers 15–19 years declined from 46.5 in 1991 to 42.5 in 1996, a reduction of 9 percent. The *birth rate for childless teenagers* declined from 49.6 in 1991 to 46.7 in 1996, a reduction of 6 percent.

Additional information on the tabulation of birth data by race, random variation, and relative standard error is provided in earlier reports (11,13).

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Suggested citation

Ventura SJ, Mathews TJ, Curtin SC. Declines in teenage birth rates, 1991–97: National and State patterns. National vital statistics reports; vol 47 no. 12. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1998.

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
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6525 Belcrest Road
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782-2003

DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 99–1120
9-0105 (12/98)

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